

Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:30AM, April 26th, 2026

Asterisk (*) indicates standing, as able. Bold/colored type indicates text spoken in unison.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

Easter people, we gather to worship and to listen, to learn the sound, the feel, the cadence of the Shepherd's voice.

We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

We gather to worship and to discern, to learn how to recognize our Shepherd's voice amidst the chaos and noise of our lives.

We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

We gather to worship and to find shelter, to learn to trust our Shepherd's voice to guide us to safety and provide for us in all things.

We come seeking our Shepherd's voice.

Come, let us worship as we listen for the voice of Jesus who guides us, protects us, provides for us, and draws us together in community.

We come to worship as the family of Christ, a flock seeking and following our Shepherd's voice. Amen.

*HYMN "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" **UMH # 400**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed **UMH # 881**

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Loving Shepherd, you know our names; you care for us. When we face darkness and death, journey beside us. When we hunger for your love, fill us with your presence. When we are fearful, feed us at your table. May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy all the days of our lives. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

God of wisdom, we confess the foolishness of our ways, and our failure to follow you in your paths of right relationships – with you and with

others. We have gone astray; we feel lost. We have upheld our own interests first, to the detriment of others. We have failed to be generous with the poor and abandoned our efforts to bring about justice. We feel the stains of our sins, God; have mercy on us according to your steadfast love. Wash the sinfulness out of us and help us to live more faithfully as your servants. We seek your unfailing Lordship and ask for your guiding hand on our lives. You are the immortal, invisible One; to you be honour and glory forever; Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Merciful and loving God, we thank you for never losing hope for us. When we are lost, you are there on the lookout for us, bringing us back to you like the good shepherd that you are. Your Word tells us of the joy in heaven that awaits us. May this joy flow into our lives each day, and be faithfully reflected into the world around us. **Thanks be to God, our Great Shepherd.**

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:1-10 (NRSV)

- 1 "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.
- 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.
- 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.
- 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.
- 5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."
- 6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.
- 7 So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.
- 8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them.

9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

MESSAGE "Jesus The Good Shepherd" Rev. Dongkue Jee

RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" **UMH # 381**

THE LORD'S PRAYER **UMH # 895**

OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" **UMH # 95**

*PRAYER OF OFFERING Unison

Faithful Shepherd, who calls us by name, you invite us into a life that is rich in meaning, deep in joy, and bold in compassion. You speak, and we long to follow—although the world is noisy and the path unclear. In this moment of offering, we quiet our hearts to listen again. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in you. May they be used to bring abundance to others, to feed the hungry, to strengthen the lost, and to proclaim your voice of love. In coming and going, in worship and service, make us more like Christ, in whose name we give and pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" **UMH # 133**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

* The offering plate is located at the entrance of the sanctuary. Please feel free to participate.

* Fellowship follows the worship service. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Parlor.



Welcome to
Mendham United Methodist Church

www.mendhamumc.org

10 East Main Street, Mendham, NJ 07945

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 26th, 2026



Christ the Good Shepherd, epigraph, 4th century,
Museo Epigrafico, Rome, Italy

Rev. Dongkue Jee, Pastor

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